

ABRAHAM
LINCOLN
IN
CONTEMPORARY
CARICATURE

BY ALBERT SHAW

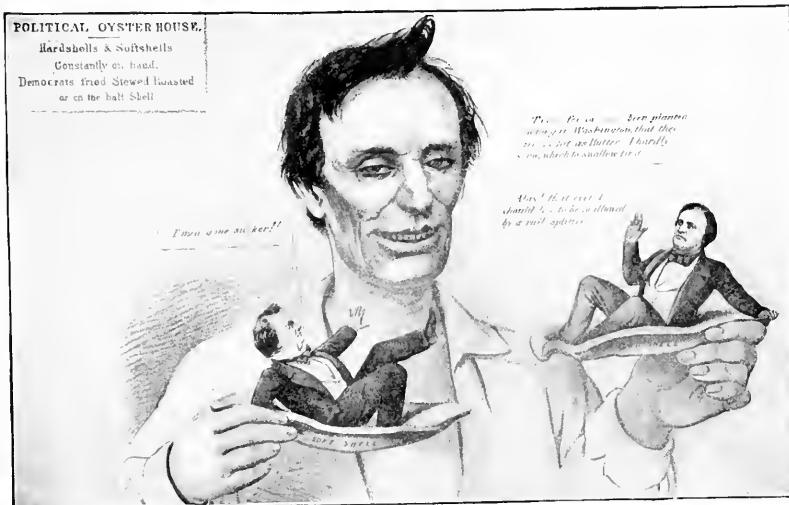


(From the AMERICAN MONTHLY REVIEW OF REVIEWS for February, 1901)

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN CONTEMPORARY CARICATURE.



HONEST ABE TAKING THEM ON THE HALF-SHELL. (A CARTOON OF 1860.)

THE birthday of Abraham Lincoln, which falls on February 12, is to be celebrated this year with more especial effort to do honor to Lincoln's memory than on any previous anniversary. The recent growth

of reverential regard for Lincoln, as a great American and as one of the two or three greatest personalities of the nineteenth century, has been very marked indeed. It is almost thirty-six years since he died; and very few



THE REPUBLICAN PARTY GOING TO THE RIGHT HOUSE. (A CARTOON OF 1860.)

THE AMERICAN MONTHLY REVIEW OF REVIEWS.



1. THE ALARM.

On Thursday night, after he had retired, Mr. Lincoln was aroused, and informed that a stranger desired to see him on a matter of life and death. . . . A conversation elicited the fact that an organized body of men had determined that Mr. Lincoln should never leave the city of Baltimore alive. . . . Statesmen laid the plan, bankers indorsed it, and adventurers were to carry it into effect.



2. THE COUNCIL.

Mr. Lincoln did not want to yield, and his friends cried with indignation. But they insisted, and he left.



3. THE SPECIAL TRAIN.

He wore a Scotch plaid cap, and a very long military cloak, so that he was entirely unrecognizable.



4. THE OLD COMPLAINT.

Mr. Lincoln, accompanied by Mr. Seward, paid his respects to President Buchanan, spending a few minutes in general conversation.

THE FLIGHT OF ABRAHAM (AS REPORTED BY A MODERN DAILY PAPER).

From *Harper's Weekly*, March 9, 1861.

(The above series of cartoons, entitled the "Flight of Abraham," appeared in *Harper's Weekly* at the time of Mr. Lincoln's first inauguration, and was based on current newspaper accounts of the mysterious *incognito* journey of the President-elect to Washington, an episode of which much has been written in the Lincoln biographies. Nothing, however, better sets forth the nature of some of the feeling and opinion of the times than these forgotten caricatures.)

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people under fifty can be expected to have any clear personal recollection of the things that were said and thought about him during his lifetime. Older people remember that he was much derided and aspersed, from his first election to the day of his assassination.

Political cartooning was not in those days so familiar a branch of journalism as it has since become. It was used to some extent, however; and then, as now, it served to show how people holding different points of view really felt. Apropos of the present interest in Lincoln and his times, we have thought it worth while to reproduce a number of cartoons in which Lincoln was the principal figure, using for that purpose the files of *Harper's Weekly*, *Frank Leslie's*, and *London Punch*, and a collection of lithographed poster cartoons that were issued separately from time to time by Messrs. *Currier & Ives*, of New York.

We may begin (see first page) with two of the lithographed sheets issued in the course of the contest of 1860, one of which represents Lincoln in an oysterhouse taking the two rival Democratic candidates (Douglas and Breckinridge) on the half-shell, while the other endeavors to heap ridicule upon the new Republican party as a collection of cranks headed for the lunatic asylum, Lincoln on Greeley's back.

The cartoons of the spring of '61 in general had to do with the fast-widening breach between North and South and the oncoming of armed conflict, and Lincoln's embarrassing position affords an obvious theme.



A JOB FOR THE NEW CABINETMAKER
From *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, February 2, 1861.



OLD ABE: "Oh, it's all well enough to say that I must support the dignity of my high office by force—but it's darned uncomfortable sitting, I can tell yer."—From *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, March 2, 1861.



PRESIDENT ABE: "What a nice White House this would be, if it were not for the blacks!"—From *Punch*, May 11, 1861.

[The illustrations from *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* are used by courtesy of the Frank Leslie Publishing House.]

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SINDBAD LINCOLN AND THE OLD MAN OF THE SEA,
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY WELLES.

From Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, May 3, 1862.



THE OVERDUE BILL.

MR. SOUTH TO MR. NORTH: "Your 'ninety days' promissory note isn't taken up yet, sirree!"

From *Punch*, September 27, 1862.

Most of the cartoons on this and the two or three pages that follow it are in manifest scorn and derision of Mr. Lincoln, whose difficulties in 1862 and 1863 were heavier than those that any other President ever had to encounter. His cabinet, his generals, the finances, and the emancipation question were all hard to manage.



LINCOLN'S TWO DIFFICULTIES.

LINCOLN: "What? No money! No men?"
From *Punch*, August 23, 1862.



LINCOLN'S LAST WARNING.

"Now, if you don't come down, I'll cut the Tree from under you." From *Harper's Weekly*, October 11, 1862.

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COLUMBIA: "Where are my 15,000 sons—murdered at Fredericksburg?"

LINCOLN: "This reminds me of a little joke—"

COLUMBIA: "Go tell your joke at Springfield!!!" —From *Harper's Weekly*, January 3, 1863.



LINCOLN'S DREAMS; OR, THERE'S A GOOD TIME COMING.—From *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, February 14, 1863.

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THOSE GUILLOTINES: A LITTLE INCIDENT AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

SERVANT: "If ye please, sir, thim Gilliteens has arrrove." MR. LINCOLN: "All right, Michael.—Now, gentlemen, will you be kind enough to step out in the back yard?"

From *Harper's Weekly*, January 3, 1863.

Mr. Lincoln's frequent changes among army commanders before he found Grant and Sherman gave opportunity for cartoons representing him as a headsmen (see preceding page), and for jokes about his "guillotine in the back yard."



MANAGER LINCOLN: "Ladies and gentlemen, I regret to say that the tragedy entitled 'The Army of the Potomac' has been withdrawn on account of quarrels among the leading performers, and I have substituted three new and striking farces or burlesques, one, entitled 'The Repulse of Vicksburg,' by the well-known, popular favorite, E. M. Stanton, Esq., and the others, 'The Loss of the *Harriet Lane*' and 'The Exploits of the *Alabama*'—a very sweet thing in farces, I assure you—by the veteran composer, Gideon Welles." (Unbounded applause by the *Copperheads*.)

From *Harper's Weekly*, January 31, 1863.



THE BAD BIRD AND THE MUDSILL.
From *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, February 21, 1863.
(Courtesy of Frank Leslie Publishing House.)



MR. BILL (confiding creature): "Hi want my cotton, bought at fi'pence a pound." MR. LINCOLN: "Don't know anything about it, my dear sir. Your friends, the rebels, are burning all the cotton they find, and I confiscate the rest. Good-morning, John!"

From *Harper's Weekly*, May 16, 1863.

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DRAWING THINGS TO A HEAD.

DR. LINCOLN (to smart boy of the shop): "Mild applications of Russian salve for our friends over the way, and heavy doses—and plenty of it—for our Southern patient!!!"—From *Harper's Weekly*, November 28, 1863.

The climax of the war and the heaviest strain upon the President came in the year 1863; and in that period of the war the cartoonists were beginning to take Mr. Lincoln somewhat more seriously. One cartoon from *Harper's Weekly*, on this page, which appeared in November, '63, has reference to Secretary Seward's use, under Lincoln's direction, of the friendship of Russia to keep England and France in a prudently neutral state of mind. *Punch's* cartoon on Lincoln and the Russian Bear is reproduced on a following page. One from *Frank Leslie's*, of June, '63, announced Mr. Lincoln's discovery that he wanted no more new brooms, and that he proposed to pay no more attention to Mr.



OLD ABE: "Greeley be hanged! I want no more new brooms. I begin to think that the worst thing about my old ones was in not being handled right."—From *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, June 13, 1863.

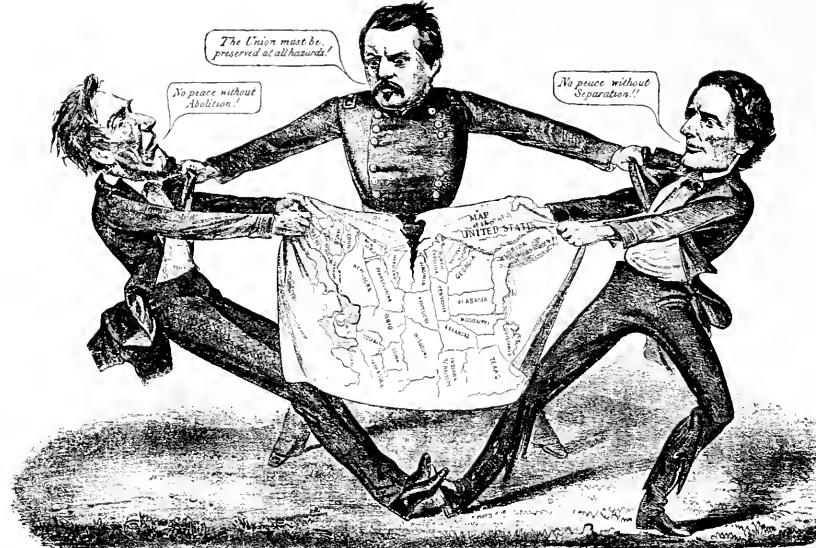
Greeley's attacks upon General Grant, McClellan, Pope, Burnside, and Hooker had come and gone, and Mr. Lincoln had concluded to make the best of what he had. Another cartoon reminds us of the riots in New York against the military draft.

By this time the cartoonists as well as the general public had come to think of Mr. Lincoln as an older man. In the campaign of 1860 he had been regarded as comparatively youthful, and had been so depicted in caricature,—the sobriquet "Old Abe" having no reference at all to his age, but



MAMMY LINCOLN: "There now, you bad boy, acting that way, when your little sister Penn takes hers like a lady!"—From *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, August 29, 1863.

indicating rather the familiar and offhand way in which it was habitual to speak of him. Mr. Lincoln was fifty-one when elected to the Presidency in 1860. His growth of a beard changed his appearance, while the burdens he bore in four years of war aged him more than fifteen or twenty years of ordinary routine existence would have done.



THE TRUE ISSUE; OR, "THAT'S WHAT'S THE MATTER."—(From a poster of 1864.)



RUNNING THE MACHINE.—(From a poster of 1864.)

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BRUTUS AND CÆSAR.
(From the American edition of Shakespeare.)
The Tent of Brutus (Lincoln). Night. Enter the Ghost of
Cæsar.

BRUTUS: "Wall, now! Do tell! Who's you?"
CÆSAR: "I am dy ebil genus, Massa Linking. Dis child
am awful impressional."—From *Punch*, August 15, 1863.



THE PRESIDENT'S ORDER NO. 252.

MR. LINCOLN: "Look here, Jeff Davis! If you lay a finger
on that boy, to hurt him, I'll lick this ugly cub of yours
within an inch of his life!"—From *Harper's Weekly*, August
15, 1863.

The two cartoons on the opposite page are reproduced from lithograph posters that were current in the campaign year 1864, when General McClellan ran against Mr. Lincoln on a platform that declared the war a failure and that undertook to place the Democratic party in the position of a mediator between the North and the South. Both cartoons are hostile to Mr. Lincoln and favorable to General McClellan, the lower one



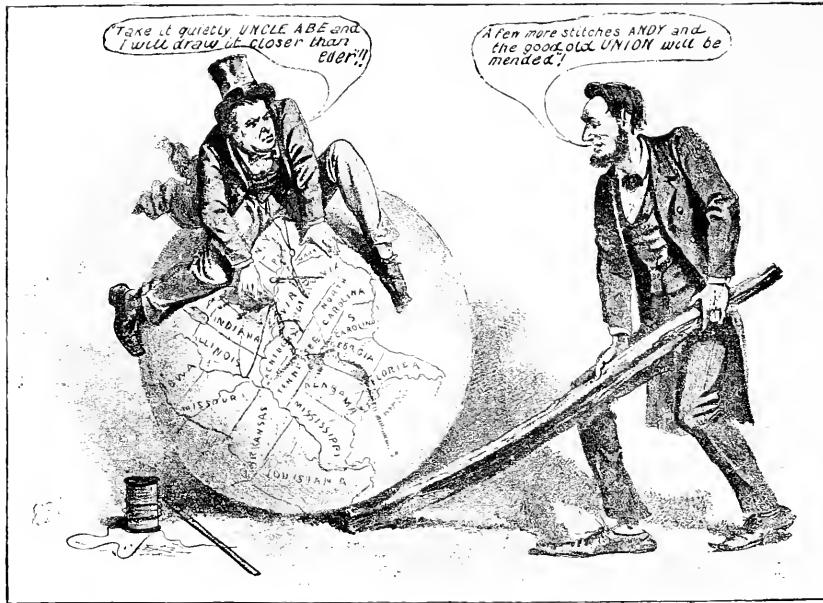
"Holding a candle to the *****."—(Much the same thing.)
From *Punch*, November 7, 1863.

representing Mr. Lincoln as an habitual joker while contractors are enriching themselves and the leading members of the Cabinet are exhibiting their folly and incapacity. The *Punch* cartoons had meanwhile, from the beginning, been unfriendly to America and especially derisive of Mr. Lincoln. Those that we reproduce are characteristic, although they are by no means the most offensive.



NEUTRALITY.
MRS. NORTH: "How about the *Alabama*, you wicked old
man?"
MRS. SOUTH: "Where's my rams? Take back your pre-
cious consuls—there!!!"—From *Punch*, November 14, 1863.

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THE "RAIL-SCRAPER" AT WORK REPAIRING THE UNION.

The cartoon at the top of this page is another of the lithograph posters, and it belongs to the period of Mr. Lincoln's second election. His colleague on the ticket, Mr. Andrew Johnson, had formerly been a tailor, and is here depicted as trying to sew up the rent in the map

of the United States. The *Punch* cartoon on this page reflects the idea then current in England, that the American North was deeply dissatisfied with Mr. Lincoln, and was going to elect McClellan. *Harper's Weekly*, however, grew more pronounced in its support



MRS. NORTH AND HER ATTORNEY.

MRS. NORTH: "You see, Mr. Lincoln, we have failed utterly in our course of action; I want peace, and so, if you cannot effect an amicable arrangement, I must put the case into other hands." From *Punch*, September 24, 1864.



From *Harper's Weekly*, September 17, 1864.

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LONG ABRAHAM LINCOLN A LITTLE LONGER.

From *Harper's Weekly*, Nov. 26, 1864.



THE FEDERAL PHENIX.—From *Punch*, December 3, 1864.

of the President, and its opinion of McClellan and his little spade is indicated in a cartoon on the preceding page. *Punch* celebrated Mr. Lincoln's victory at the polls in a famous cartoon called "The Federal Phoenix," in which Lincoln rises from the ashes of the Constitution, the Public Credit, the Rights of the States, the Freedom of the Press, and the bill of rights in general. *Harper's Weekly* reminded the country that it was to have "long Abraham Lincoln a little longer," in an elongated caricature which we also reproduce.



DON'T SWAP HORSES.

JOHN BULL: "Why don't you ride the other horse a bit? He's the best animal."

BROTHER JONATHAN: "Well, that may be; but the fact is, OLD ABE is just where I can put my finger on him; and as for the other—though they say he's some when out in the scrub yonder—I never know where to find him."

From *Harper's Weekly*, November 12, 1864.

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JEFF DAVIS' NOVEMBER NIGHTMARE.

From *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, December 3, 1864.

The cartoons on this page do not need elucidation. In connection with comments and reproductions illustrating the fifty years' work of Tenniel, the great cartoonist of *Punch*, we published last month *Punch's* respectful pictorial tribute on Lincoln's death. Leech and Tenniel had done their best for four years to give the English people a wrong impression of the great statesman who was directing American affairs, although doubtless their prejudices were honest enough. Thomas Nast at that time had not begun his famous cartoon work, but was drawing war illustrations for *Harper's Weekly*;



THE THREATENING NOTICE.

ATTORNEY LINCOLN: "Now, Uncle Sam, you're in a darned hurry to serve this here notice on John Bull. Now, it's my duty, as your attorney, to tell you that you may drive him to go over to that cuss, Davis." (*Uncle Sam considers.*) — From *Punch*, February 18, 1865.

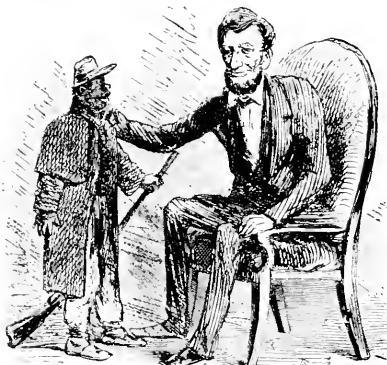
and on the occasion of Lincoln's death he drew a great two-page design symbolical of the nation's grief, a picture of such a character that its reproduction for a magazine page would not be feasible. Nowadays, the cartoonists call up the shades of Lincoln for Mr. McKinley's benefit. Perhaps those of a future period will evoke the shades of McKinley.



NORTH AND SOUTH.

"Now, Jeffy, when you think you have had enough of this, say so, and I'll leave off!" (Vide President's Message.)

From *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, December 24, 1864.



UNCLE ABE: "Sambo, you are not handsome, any more than myself, but as to sending you back to your old master, I'm not the man to do it—and what's more, I won't." (Vide President's Message.) — From *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, December 24, 1864.

